

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05217 291433Z

46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 CU-05 NIC-01 ACDA-19 EUR-25

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04

SY-04 SCCT-02 DRC-01 /182 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0028

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5217

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CI

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 11 RALLY AUTHORIZED

REF: SANTIAGO 4836

1. SUMMARY: CLIMAXING GRADUAL PUBLICITY BUILD-UP
IN SANTIAGO PRESS, GOC ANNOUNCES IT WILL ALLOW "SPONTANEOUS"
POPULAR OBSERVANCE OF SEPT 11 ANNIVERSARY OF 1973 COUP.
THEME TO BE STRESSED, ACCORDING TO PUBLICITY, IS JOY
OF PEOPLE AT BEING FREED FROM MARXIST REPRESSION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AUGUST 27 NATION-WIDE RADIO/TV PROGRAM, MINISTER
OF INTERIOR GEN. CESAR BENAVIDES, TO NO ONE'S GREAT
SURPRISE, ANNOUNCED THAT PERMISSION REQUESTED BY VARIOUS
CIVIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS TO BE ALLOWED TO CELEBRATE
ANNIVERSARY OF OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN
GRANTED BY CHIEF OF STATE PINOCHET. MAJOR RALLY IN
SANTIAGO WILL TAKE PLACE ON OUTSKIRTS OF DOWNTOWN AREA,
AFTER BUSINESS AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES HAVE CLOSED IN
MID-AFTERNOON. THERE WILL BE SIMILAR RALLIES IN
THE PROVINCES.

3. COINCIDENTALLY, SANTIAGO PRESS QUOTES UNDER
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 05217 291433Z

SECRETARY OF WAR COL. OSCAR CODDOU AS STATING THAT

SECURITY MEASURES WILL BE INTENSIFIED FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. COL. CODDOU STATED EXACT NATURE OF ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN WOULD DEPEND UPON INFORMATION PRESENTED BY INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, WITH OBJECTIVE OF PREVENTING ANY ATTEMPT AT SUBVERSION. REFERRING TO WHAT HE TERMED A CONTINUING RUMOR CAMPAIGN REGARDING ALLEGED ACTS OF VIOLENCE, CODDOU STATED PREVENTION WAS BETTER THAN CURE AND THAT SECURITY SERVICES WOULD NOT BE CAUGHT NAPPING.

4. OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT CEREMONY ON SEPT 11 (REFTEL) WILL FEATURE STATEMENT BY GEN. PINOCHET AT SEAT OF GOVERNMENT (DIEGO PORTALES BUILDING). JUNTA IDEOLOGUE ALVARO PUGA AND JUNTA PRESS SPOKESMAN FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY HAVE TOLD US THEY WERE WORKING HARD ON PINOCHET'S STATEMENT AND ON SUMMARY OF YEAR'S ACTIVITIES, TO BE RELEASED AT THAT TIME.

5. COMMENT: PRESS CAMPAIGN FOR OBSERVANCE OF SEPT 11 ANNIVERSARY HAS FOLLOWED PREDICTABLE LINES, AND CULMINATION HAS COME ABOUT AS EXPECTED. DENIALS TO THE CONTRARY, THERE IS PLENTY OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE WORKING HARD BEHIND THE SCENES TO INSURE MASSIVE ATTENDANCE AT RALLIES AND THUS TO PRESENT PICTURE OF BROAD AND ENTHUSIASTIC POPULAR SUPPORT FOR REGIME. AS INDICATED SANTIAGO 5127, ANNIVERSARY IS SEEN TO PRESENT RISKS AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOVERNMENT: QUITE APPARENT SECURITY FORCES WILL BE ALERT TO COUNTERACT ANY SYMBOLIC SIGN OF OPPOSITION WHICH MIGHT OCCUR.
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